

Recently, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved a demonstration waiver for the state of Georgia to establish an Uncompensated Care Pool (UCCP) to cover medically necessary services and supplies for uninsured, hurricane Katrina evacuees. These individuals and families left certain parishes or counties in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama in the wake of the storm. Affected areas are:

### **Louisiana**

Acadia, Ascension, Assumption, Calcasieu, Cameron, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, Lafourche, Livingston, Orleans, Pointe Coupee, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John, St. Mary, St. Martin, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, Vermilion, Washington, West Baton Rouge, and West Feliciana parishes

### **Mississippi**

Adams, Amite, Attala, Claiborne, Choctaw, Clarke, Copiah, Covington, Forrest, Franklin, George, Greene, Hancock, Harrison, Hinds, Holmes, Humphries, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Jones, Kemper, Lamar, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Leake, Lincoln, Lowndes, Madison, Marion, Neshoba, Newton, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Pearl River, Perry, Pike, Rankin, Scott, Simpson, Smith, Stone, Walthall, Warren, Wayne, Wilkinson, Winston, and Yazoo counties

### **Alabama**

Baldwin, Choctaw, Clarke, Greene, Hale, Marengo, Mobile, Pickens, Sumter, Tuscaloosa, and Washington counties

The Department of Community Health will administer the Uncompensated Care Pool (UCCP). Funds will be earmarked to cover certain services and items, rendered to uninsured evacuees, from the aforementioned affected areas, during the period beginning August 24, 2005 and ending January 31, 2006.

To claim reimbursement under the pool, providers must be enrolled in Georgia's Medicaid program. Those, not currently enrolled, must do so before they seek reimbursement for their uncompensated care. Click the link to "Provider Enrollment" to obtain instructions for enrolling. Additionally, providers must not have received payments from private insurance, any state's Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP), Medicare, health care vouchers from any state, federal, or charity organization, or any other method of health care coverage at the time the service was rendered.

When instructions for filing claims are finalized, the Department of Community Health will notify all enrolled providers of the appropriate and timely measures to take for claiming reimbursement for uncompensated care costs under the pool. They will be provided on both the Georgia Health Partnership (GHP) and Department of Community Health (DCH) websites. Check <http://ghp.georgia.gov> or <http://dch.georgia.gov>.